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Written Testimony of Toxics Action Center Campaigns
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee
February 28, 2014

Written Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 67, An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to the committee.

For many years, Toxics Action Center Campaigns has helped citizen groups across New England to protect public health and the environment by working to clean up hazardous waste sites, curb pesticide spraying, and reduce pollution from hazardous waste, energy facilities, and industrial facilities. In the process, we train citizens to be long-term leaders in their communities. Over the last year, we worked with residents across the state, including a group in Bridgeport that is advocating for the responsible retirement of the city's coal-fired power plant. I am writing this to encourage you to support Senate Bill No. 67: An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

Excess waste poses a serious threat to our health and our environment. Many of these discarded bottles will be incinerated in our state. This creates toxic ash and fumes which have a demonstrated negative impact on surrounding communities. Those that are disposed of in landfills can leach contaminants like BPA into the surrounding environment, including our ground water. Therefore, we need to take action and reduce the number of bottles that are discarded.

The bottle bill has proven to be effective in increasing recycling rates. Conversely, bottles not covered by the states bottle bill are much less likely to be recycled. Therefore, we encourage this committee to protect our health and the environment by passing SB 67.

Thank you for your time.

Jeff Butke
Community Organizer
Toxics Action Center Campaigns